

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant's attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone conference of October 2, 2003. As noted by Applicant's attorney, the Notice of References Cited form did not include the Sixtus patent which was used as the primary patent for rejecting all of the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests another Notice of References Cited form which makes the Sixtus reference of record.

Claims 1-9, 11, 12, 16-18, 20, 21, 25-34, 36, 39-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sixtus U.S. Patent No. 5,903,721. The Sixtus reference is directed to a method and system for secure online transaction processing which requires a computer to transmit a transaction request message to a vendor computer. The financial transaction request includes user identification data unique to the user computer. In response to receiving the transaction request, the vendor computer sends a transaction verification request to a trust server computer to request transaction verification. The trust server computer authenticates the user computer based on the identification data. As also pointed out by the Examiner, the Sixtus reference also generally discloses that when a transaction request button is clicked, a transaction takes place with no credit card or address to type in. In addition, the transaction request button will appear as an attractive animated figure. When the animated image is clicked, the animation changes accompanied by audio effects. During the transaction request, a user enters in their PIN. When the transaction is approved, the animation changes once more accompanied by an audio effect. As such, in order to request a transaction, a user "simply has to click the embedded button and enter his PIN."

In contrast, Applicant's claim, among other things, altering at least one feature of the animated image in response to entry of one or more entered password characters. Applicant also notes that the amendments to the claims were merely the rewriting of the claims as originally filed. For example, claim 1 includes the limitations of 2 and 6 with new claim 46 includes the limitations of original claim 5. As such, these are not narrowing amendments as the claims have

not been amended from their form as originally filed. The Office Action alleges that the Sixtus reference in Col. 4, lines 62-62 and Col. 5, line 18 allegedly teaches a system that alters a feature the animated image in response to entry of one or more entered password characters. However, Applicant respectfully notes that the cited portion merely states that the only time a animated character is changed is by clicking on the animated character. This is done independent of the entry of the password character. In contrast, Applicant claims that an animated image is altered in response to entry of one or more entered password characters. The Sixtus reference teaches a different approach wherein a user simply enters the PIN and the animated image does not change. The only time the animated image appears to change is when the animated image is clicked. This is a distinctly different operation than that claimed by Applicant. Accordingly, the independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Moreover, as for claim 46 for example, this claim requires, among other things, that a graphical pattern changes in response to entry of one or more entered password characters. Again, for the same reasons as noted above, the Sixtus patent fails to anticipate or render this claim obvious. The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In addition, the dependent claims add additional novel and nonobvious subject matter. For example, as to claim 7, the claim requires displaying the animated image prior to allowing input of a password. However, as described in the Sixtus reference, the animated image appears a button along with the PIN entry. Accordingly, this claim is also in condition for allowance.

As to claim 8, this claim requires displaying the animated image after allowing input of a password. However, as described in Sixtus, the animated image is displayed during entry of a password. Accordingly, this claim is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

As to claim 12, the Office Action cites Col. 4, lines 58-64. However, this portion only describes an animated image and not a plurality of selectable animated images. In Sixtus, it does not appear that the animated image can be selected from a plurality of animated images. Instead it appears that only one image is used as a default image. Animated images are the same for every user and for every transaction or session. Applicant claims a different approach wherein at

least one of the selectable animated images are output on a display device during password entry. This claim is also in condition for allowance.


Applicant respectfully reasserts the relevant remarks made above with respect to corresponding claims associated with other independent claims. For the above reasons, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 15, 19, 24, 35, 38 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sixtus in view of Tabuki. Applicant respectfully reasserts the relevant remarks made above with respect to Sixtus. Accordingly, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 14, 23 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sixtus in view of Suzuki. Applicant again respectfully reasserts the relevant remarks made above with respect to Sixtus. Accordingly, these claims are also in believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, the Suzuki reference merely indicates that 3D pictures may be used for displaying information concerning stores and goods. This assumes that a log-on has already occurred. There is no teaching or suggestion in the cited portion of Suzuki relating to entry of a password or the use of the 3D image in connection with the entry of a password. Accordingly, the claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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